



# AIR FORCE

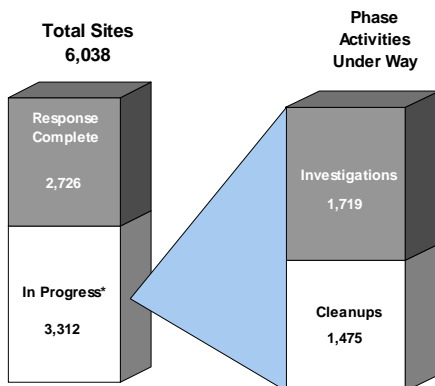
## Cleanup Status and Progress

*"The Air Force continues to prove its commitment to protecting the American people and natural resources through strong environmental programs and sound operating practices while at the same time ensuring we accomplish the Air Force mission. Our core values of 'integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do' and Environment, Safety and Occupational Health program principles of 'sustaining readiness, leveraging resources, and being a good neighbor' guide our daily actions. Operating from these combined values and principles allows us to care for Air*

*Force people and American communities while we train to defend our freedom."*

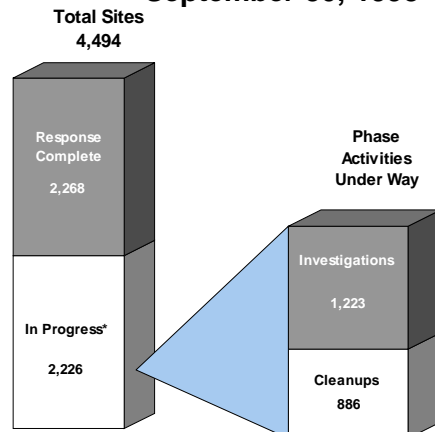
— F. Whitten Peters, Acting Secretary of the Air Force

### Active and BRAC Site Status as of September 30, 1998

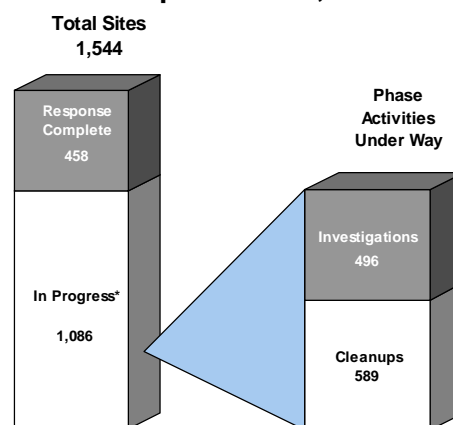


In fiscal year 1998 (FY98), the Air Force continued to make substantial progress toward completion of its restoration program, reducing risk to human health and the environment. Strong stakeholder involvement, stable funding, and the application of relative risk "plus" factors continue to be used successfully to sequence site and installation cleanup activities.

### Active Site Status as of September 30, 1998



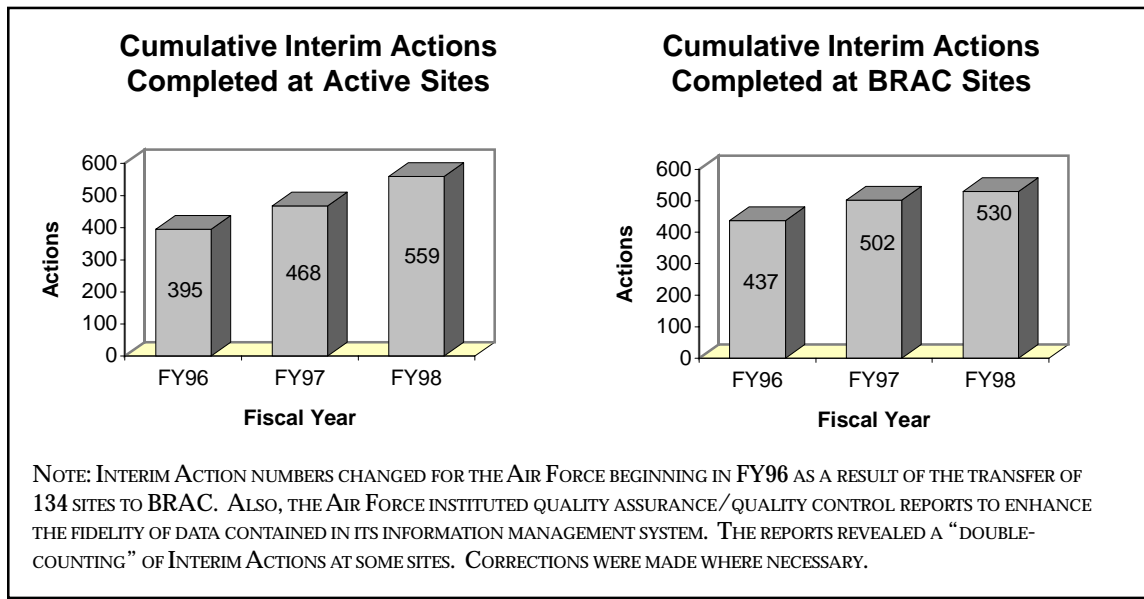
### BRAC Site Status as of September 30, 1998



\*NOTE: IN-PROGRESS INCLUDES SITES WHERE ACTIVITIES WILL BE UNDER WAY IN THE FUTURE. THEREFORE, TOTALS OF SITES WITH PHASE ACTIVITIES UNDER WAY ARE GENERALLY LESS THAN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SITES IN PROGRESS.

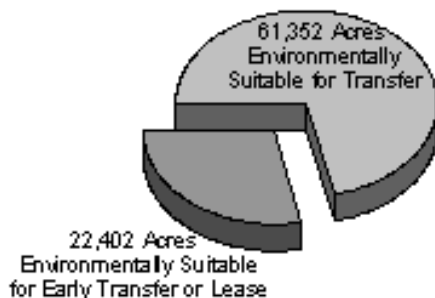
## Program Execution

In FY98, the active Air Force added 197 new sites to its restoration inventory, bringing the Air Force active installation site total to 4,494. Of these sites, 2,268 require no further action except long-term monitoring, and 2,226 are either in progress or have future restoration actions planned. Of the sites in progress, 1,223 have investigations under way, 886 have cleanup actions in progress, and 117 have future actions planned. In addition, 148 Air Force sites require long-term operations.



Thirty-one Air Force installations were recommended for closure or realignment in the 1988, 1991, 1993, and 1995 rounds of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program. Environmental Baseline Surveys and BRAC Cleanup Plans have been completed for all Air Force BRAC installations. In FY98, cleanup actions were completed at 91 BRAC sites.

### Environmental Condition of BRAC Property

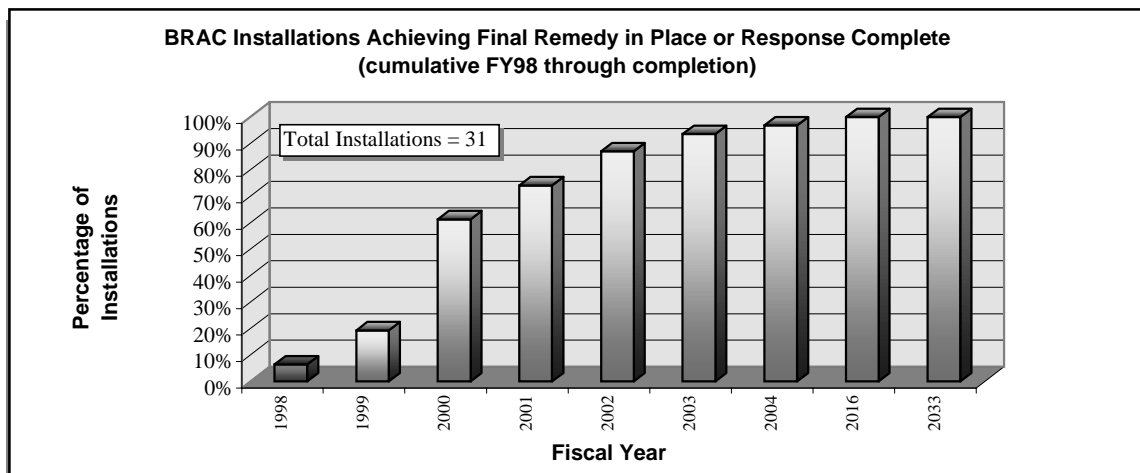
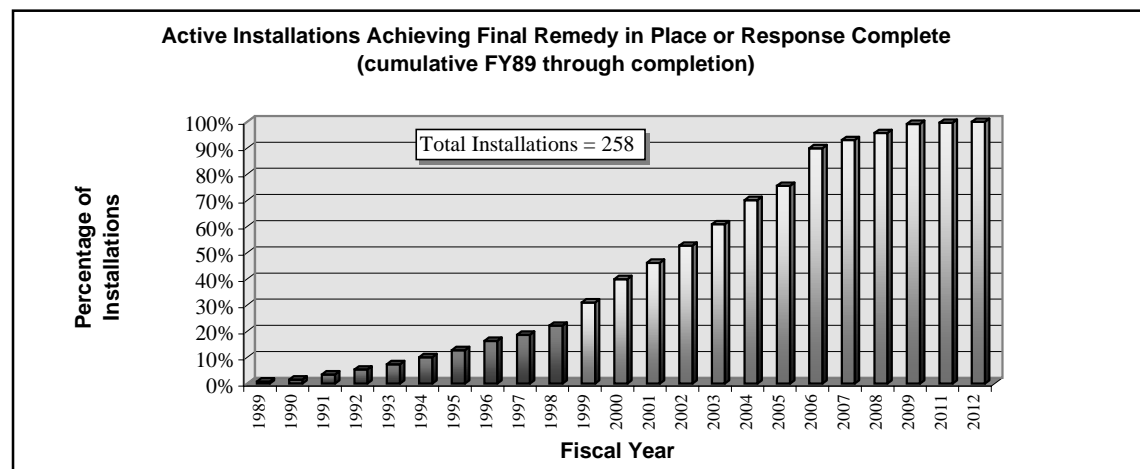
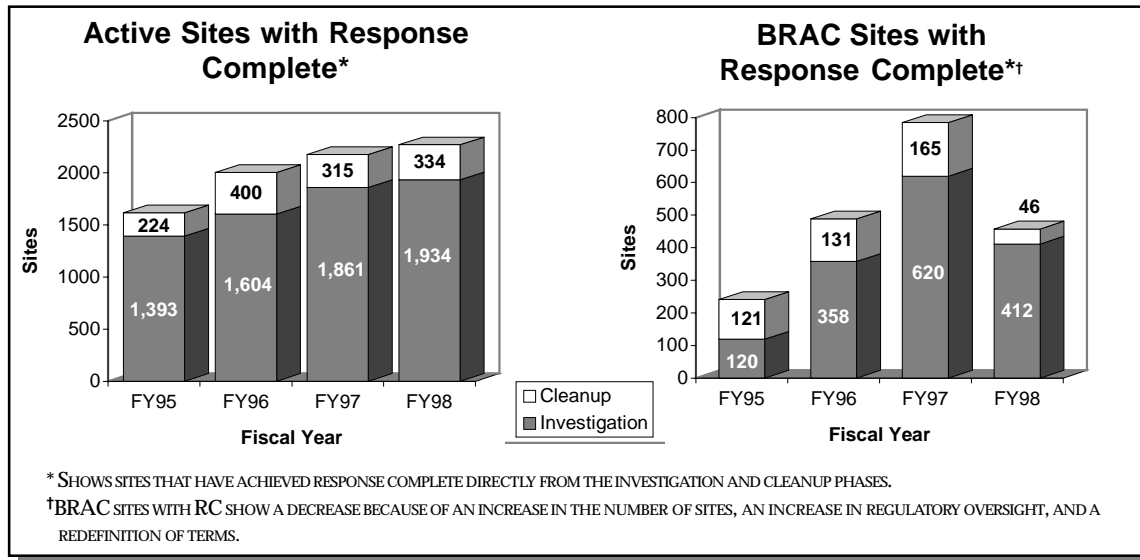


As a result, 73 percent of the property at the Air Force BRAC installations is environmentally suitable for transfer.

Response is complete at 2,268 of the 4,494 sites at Air Force active installations that are funded by the Air Force Environmental Restoration Account (ERA). At the 2,226 remaining sites, investigation, design, or cleanup actions are in progress. In FY98, the Air Force completed 91 interim actions at active installations, bringing the total number of interim actions completed at active installations to 559 at 507 sites. During FY98, 19 active installation sites were

brought to Response Complete status through cleanup activities. In addition, 73 additional active installation sites were determined to require no further action or to be Response Complete on the basis of appropriate investigations and analysis.

Response is complete at 458 of the 1,544 sites at Air Force BRAC installations. Investigation, design, or cleanup actions are in progress at the 1,086 remaining sites. In FY98, the Air Force completed 28 interim actions, bringing the total number of interim actions completed at BRAC installations to 530 at 449 sites. Also during FY98, seven



BRAC installation sites reached Response Complete status through cleanup activities. Forty-eight additional BRAC installation sites were determined to require no further action or to be Response Complete on the basis of appropriate investigations and analysis.

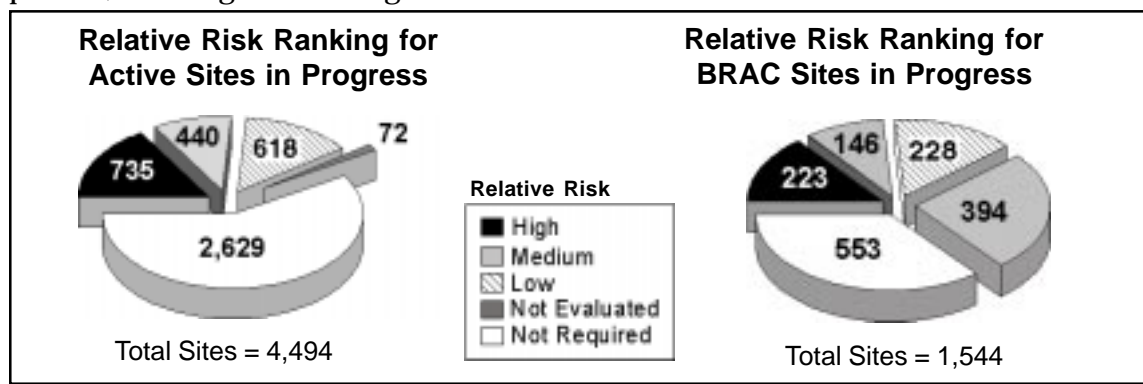
## Program Accomplishments

In FY98, the Air Force Base Conversion Agency (AFBCA) achieved U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concurrence on Operating Properly and Successfully (OPS) demonstrations for a landfill remedy at Pease Air Force Base and a groundwater extraction system at Mather Air Force Base. EPA has given concurrence on only six such demonstrations nationwide. The OPS demonstrations are the second and third by the AFBCA; Norton Air Force Base obtained OPS concurrence in 1994. EPA concurrence at Pease and Mather allows these installations to begin transferring the properties.

AFBCA, in cooperation with EPA's Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office and Technology Innovation Office, also is sponsoring a national conference on optimizing monitoring systems. AFBCA believes that up to 25 percent of long-term cleanup costs can be avoided through these efforts. AFBCA has continued its FY97 efforts to optimize the performance and cost-effectiveness of its own long-term remediation and monitoring systems. The agency's three-pronged strategy involves optimizing existing remedial and monitoring systems through development and use of the Remedial and Monitoring System Optimization Guides; developing cost-effective contracts that are tailored to the operation and maintenance of such systems, with incentives for achieving cleanup objectives on schedule and under budget; and using emerging cleanup and monitoring technologies geared toward remedial and monitoring systems with time frames of over 10 years. Through these efforts, with regulatory participation, AFBCA expects to lower monitoring costs by 10 to 25 percent.

## Relative Risk Evaluation

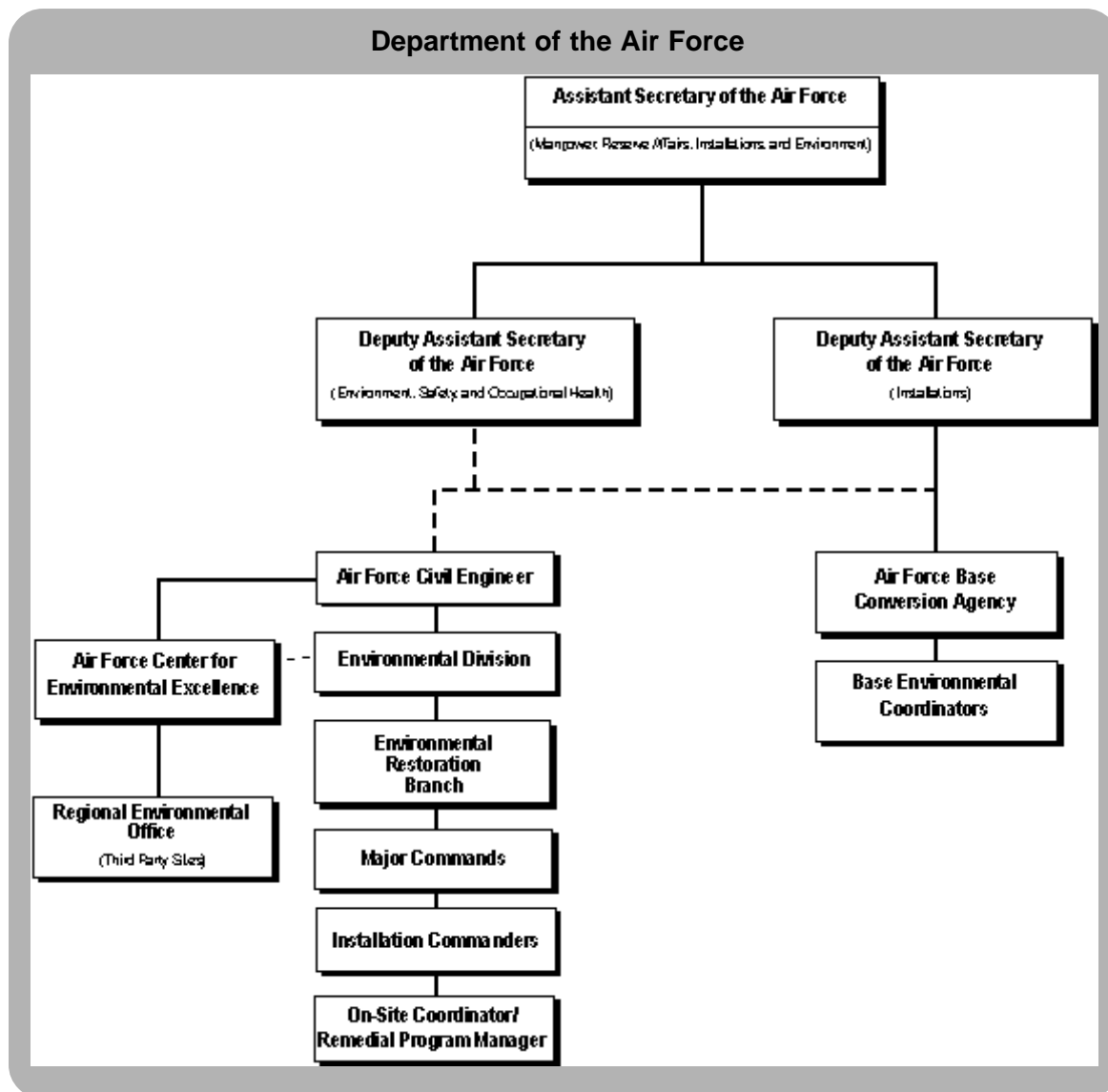
The Air Force uses relative risk site evaluations as a primary factor in sequencing work. Relative risk "plus" factors, including legal requirements, stakeholder concerns, program execution, and economic impacts, are also considered. Of the 2,226 sites in progress at active Air Force installations, 735, or about 33 percent, are categorized as high relative risk. Of the 1,086 sites in progress at closing Air Force installations, 223, or about 20 percent, are categorized as high relative risk.



## Management Initiatives

The Air Force plans to schedule and participate in EPA regional program reviews in FY99. The reviews will be reformatted to provide more two-way communication and to incorporate additional requested information.

Major Command (MAJCOM) restoration program management reviews (PMRs) were conducted in FY98. These reviews incorporated information reported in the Air Force Restoration Information Management System by installations and MAJCOMs. Reviews focused on identifying sites that were not meeting the goals set forth in the Defense Planning Guidance, funding issues, and cleanup program success stories. PMRs are scheduled for the second quarter of FY99. The Air Force plans to conduct PMRs on a semi-annual basis.



## Program Direction

In FY98, AFBCA led an Air Force initiative to define the site closeout process for the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Air Force. These efforts have brought the Air Force national recognition from the states, EPA, and DoD. In less than a year, the initiative has improved the understanding of what remains to be accomplished in the cleanup program. To achieve this, the initiative's cooperative working group produced a site closeout process guide, developed an interactive Web site (which includes process guidance, case studies, model documents, and other site closeout resources), and conducted numerous briefings and workshops at more than 20 national environmental forums. Before this project began, there had been no definitive, comprehensive source of information on the site closeout process. Numerous documents with differing definitions, milestones, and requirements were available; however, there was no single framework or blueprint for completing cleanup work beyond remedy selection. The Air Force initiative's guidance and interactive Web site will save federal, state, and military cleanup teams substantial time by improving the process's consistency and the understanding of the process.

AFBCA also led a cooperative DoD, EPA, and state effort to develop strategies for achieving site closeout. This effort will soon become the DoD initiative guidance for reaching site closeout and ensuring that cleanup responses are complete.

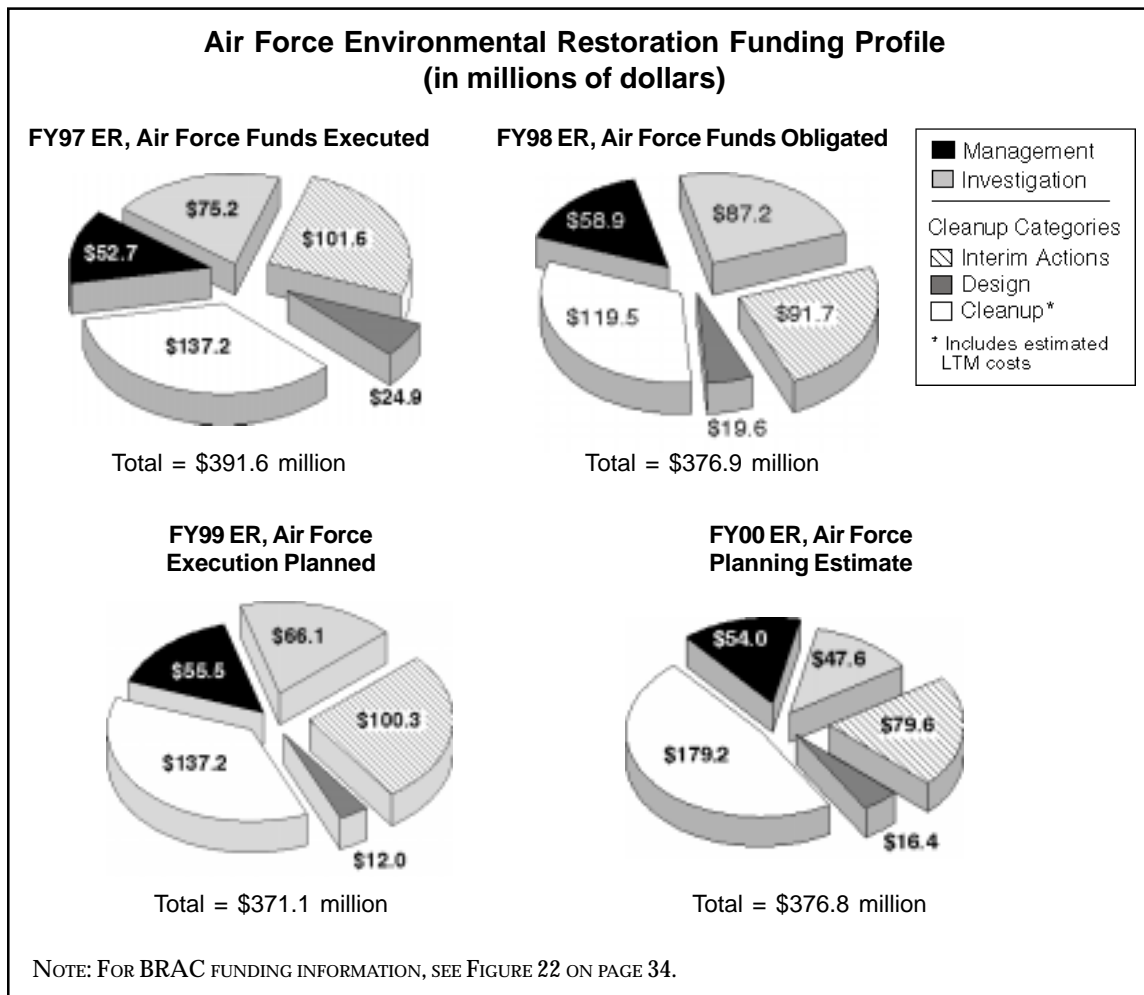
The Air Force also continues to apply all available resources to accomplishing the goals outlined in the *Air Force Environmental Program Management Guidance*:

- Reduce risk to human health and the environment. Take appropriate, timely action to reduce or eliminate potential risks to human health and the environment posed by environmental contamination.
- Comply with federal, state, and local regulatory requirements and orders pertaining to cleanup of the environment and eliminate the need for any enforcement actions.
- Develop partnerships. Enhance and sustain the Air Force environmental commitment through productive partnering and active community-involvement programs.
- Involve stakeholders. Where there is sufficient and sustained community interest, establish Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) including representatives of federal, state, and local regulatory agencies and the local community.
- Evaluate cost and performance. Use new, innovative, or best available technologies that expedite the cleanup process and lower costs while achieving cleanup results that are as good as, or better than, those achieved through use of standard technologies.
- Enter into cleanup agreements when legally required or when deemed to be in the Air Force's and stakeholders' best interest in facilitating cleanup. Continue to comply with all existing agreements. Agreements shall reflect realistic schedules that are consistent with Air Force ERA funding allocations.

- Prevent future contamination by preventing pollution and minimizing waste.
- Consider future land use in developing cleanup strategies.
- Ensure that all actions that are necessary for protection of human health and the environment are taken before sale or transfer of property from the United States to any other person or entity, in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and DoD policy.

## Funding

In FY98 the Air Force obligated \$376.9 million in environmental restoration funds, approximately 29 percent of the overall ER FY98 DoD program budget. Current planning estimates indicate that the Air Force's environmental restoration funds will decrease to \$371.1 million in FY99, then increase to \$376.8 million in FY00. In FY98, approximately 61 percent of Air Force environmental restoration funds was spent on design work, interim or final cleanup actions, and operation and maintenance. That percentage is expected to increase to 67 percent in FY99 and to increase to 73 percent in FY00.



## Outreach

The Air Force is dedicated to involving the public in its cleanup program in a way that allows timely and meaningful input from stakeholders on cleanup priorities. Involving the public is crucial to establishing trust and credibility throughout the cleanup process.

The Air Force periodically surveys communities where there has been little or no sustained community interest in forming a RAB to determine whether such interest has developed. In addition, in FY98, AFBCA hosted a review of the FY99 program for BRAC cleanup teams (BCTs). This review provided an opportunity for discussion, explanation, and coordination of fiscal issues. It also supplied guidance to the BCTs on long-term strategies for achieving response complete and site closeout.

The Air Force also has formed active partnerships with regulatory agencies, communities, and industry to reduce the cost of cleanup through effective application of technology. For example, to improve cooperation between the Air Force and EPA Region 4, the Air Force held regular partnering sessions focusing on site remediation and closure, resolution and avoidance of conflict, legal requirements, and sharing responsibility for solutions. The goal of this partnership is to foster harmony and commitment to the cleanup process. The structured partnering practiced in Region 4 is part of a range of options available to Air Force installation restoration program managers.

These various efforts reflect the Air Force's commitment to maintaining an open, visible, and accountable cleanup program whose ultimate goal is cleanup completion. By working steadily toward this goal, the Air Force will sustain public trust and faith in the program.